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REMARKS

Claims 26, 28-30, and 32-50 are pending herein.

1. Claim 48 was rejected as under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. Claim 48 has been amended and the phrase "gas channels being open and unfilled" has been removed. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 USC 112, first paragraph rejection is respectfully requested.

2. Claims 26, 28-30, and 32-48 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iijima et al (2001/0006042) in view of Vaidya et al (US 5076203). The rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

The claimed invention is drawn to a process for continuous deposition of a coating of an HTS tape, comprising translating a substrate tape along a surface of a substrate block and injecting gas through gas channels and onto the substrate tape. The claimed invention particularly calls for gas channels extending through the substrate block and being hollow and open along the entire length of the gas channels. Additionally, the claimed invention calls for the gas channels to terminate as opening at the surface of the substrate block. Applicants have shown that injecting gas through the gas channels and directly onto the substrate, instead of into the deposition chamber from another location, reduces the average texture of the buffer layer at least about 3 degrees.

While the PTO continues to rely upon Iijima et al. to allegedly teach the main features of the claimed invention. However, Iijima et al. do not disclose injecting gas through gas channels of the substrate block. The PTO has apparently relied upon Vaidya et al. to allegedly overcome this deficiency.

Vaidya et al. fail to disclose or remotely suggest gas channels being hollow and open along their entire length and terminating at the surface of the substrate block. Rather, Vaidya et al. disclose supplying gas through a porous block (Figs 7-10 and Col 6 lines 5-42). While the porous block allows the gas to flow from the gas channels to the surface of the substrate block, the open channels that supply the gas to the porous block

fail to extend to the surface of the substrate block over which the substrate translates. While, in Fig 9, the combination of the gas channel 63 and the porous material 61 possibly might be viewed as a "gas channel" extending to the surface, the combination of 63 and 61 clearly fail to satisfy the requirement of gas channels being hollow and open along the entire length, which extends to the surface. As such, Vaidya et al. do not disclose or remotely suggest gas channels extending to the surface of the substrate block and being hollow and open along the entire length of the gas channels.

For at least the forgoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the presently claimed invention would not have been anticipated by Iijima et al. in view of Vaidya et al. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 USC 103 rejection over Iijima et al. in view of Vaidya et al. is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

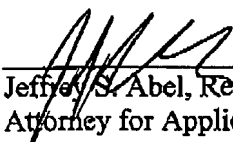
Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the Applicants would be desirable for placing this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-3797.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

7/30/07


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